

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original): A coated pellet comprising

- a) a pellet core which comprises venlafaxine hydrochloride;
- b) a first coating which comprises a lipophilic layer or a sparingly water-soluble layer, and
- c) a second coating which comprises a water-insoluble polymer or polymer mixture.

Claim 2. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in claim 1 wherein the core additionally comprises ~~a carrier, e.g.~~ microcrystalline cellulose.

Claim 3. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in claim 1~~-or claim 2~~ wherein the core further comprises a binder.

Claim 4. (Original): A pellet as claimed in claim 3 wherein the binder comprises a cellulose derivative.

Claim 5. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in claim 3~~-or claim 4~~ wherein the binder comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (~~HPMC~~).

Claim 6. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in claim 1~~-or claim 2~~ wherein the lipophilic layer comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a fat, fatty alcohol ~~or and a~~ wax.

Claim 7. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the lipophilic layer comprises a component selected from the group consisting of cetostearyl alcohol, castor oil ~~or and~~ dibutyl phthalate.

Claim 8. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in claim 1~~-or claim 2~~ wherein the sparingly water-soluble layer comprises a sugar, ~~e.g.~~ lactose, in the form of an aqueous suspension wherein the concentration of the sugar is at least 0.3 g/ml.

Claim 9. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the water-insoluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of polymethacrylate dispersions, ethylcellulose dispersions and polyvinyl acetate dispersions.

Claim 10. (Currently amended): A composition comprising pellets as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~.

Claim 11. (Currently amended): A composition as claimed in claim 10 in a form selected from the group consisting of a tablet, hard gelatine capsule or and sachet form.

Claim 12. (Currently amended): A process for preparing coated pellet cores which process comprises the steps of

- i) forming a pellet core mixture comprising venlafaxine hydrochloride with water or an aqueous solution of a binder,
- ii) extruding and spheronising the mixture, drying and sieving,
- iii) applying a first coating, and
- iv) applying a second coating,

wherein the process is carried out in the absence or substantial absence of any organic solvent medium at least in the second coating.

Claim 13. (Original): A process as claimed in claim 12 wherein the pellet core mixture further comprises microcrystalline cellulose and HPMC.

Claim 14. (Currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13 wherein the process is carried out in the absence or substantial absence of any organic solvent medium in both the first and second coatings.

Claim 15. (Currently amended): A coated pellet produced by the process as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14.

Claim 16. (Currently amended): A coated pellet comprising consisting of or consisting essentially of

- a) a core containing venlafaxine hydrochloride in an amount of between 30 and 60 % by weight, microcrystalline cellulose in an amount of between 40 and 65 % by weight, and HPMC K 4 M in an amount of between 0.3 and 0.8 % by weight, wherein the respective weights are in relation to the double-coated core;
- b) a first coating containing cetostearyl alcohol in an amount of between 1.7 and 3.5 % by weight of the first-coated pellet core; and
- c) a second coating containing an acrylate-based polymer in an amount of between 9 and 13 % by weight based on the total weight of the double-coated core, and talc in an amount of between 3 and 8 % by weight based on the total weight of the double-coated pellet core.

Claim 17. (Original): A composition comprising pellets as claimed in claim 16.